



FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

4840 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

www.fairfieldpaschools.org

Brian W. McDowell
High School Principal
mcdowellb@fairfield.k12.pa.us

Phone (717) 642-2004
Fax (717) 642-2029

April 20, 2020

Re: High School Student/Parent FAQ

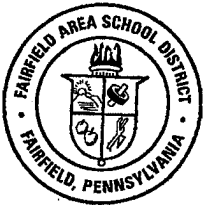
Fairfield Students and Parents/Guardians:

First...I apologize up-front for the length of this communication....my plan is to provide follow-up to the April 17th District Communication and provide other up-to-date guidance as well. My household has been turned upside down since March 13th, and I am certain that is the case for many students and parents/guardians as well. We all are navigating a myriad of challenges and obstacles that have been thrown upon our path. This journey that we are meandering through together, as a Fairfield Community, will never be forgotten, and I am hopeful that what we all remember the most, is how others-centered we were in a time of need.

I am extremely proud of the students, parents/guardians, and the High School teachers and staff in the effort that everyone has put forth in providing, completing, or supporting learning opportunities, supporting one another, being understanding, practicing patience, and remaining flexible. I am appreciative of all the efforts...and I submit to everyone that we all need to continue those efforts going forward.

- **Fairfield Area High School Student Expectations going forward...**
 - Fairfield HS Teachers will continue to provide Learning Opportunities as in previous weeks, and the High School expectation is that Fairfield HS students will complete the learning opportunities provided to them.
 - It is imperative to remember that education/learning is life-long and needs to become part of our fabric, part of who we are...feeding that desire to learn and grow.
 - **STUDENTS...**now is not the time to stop, to not following through; I challenge you to stay the course, complete the learning opportunities provided, take ownership of your education...we want to partner with you in these opportunities, and we will support you in all these endeavors.
 - **STUDENTS...**I know that in many aspects these are challenging and uncertain times, I have faith in you that you will put forth your best effort, that you will rise to the challenge, and that you will follow through.
 - End date for Online Learning: (Grades 9, 10, 11) - Wednesday, June 3rd
 - End date for Online Learning: (Grade 12) - Friday, May 29th.
- **Fairfield Area High School Teacher Information going forward...**
 - Teachers will continue to provide learning opportunities on a week-by-week basis...this has not changed. The process will continue as it has previously.
 - Grading has officially concluded for learning opportunities going forward, however teacher feedback will continue.
 - HS Teachers will provide students feedback on completed and submitted student work and that feedback will be documented.
 - Teachers will continue to communicate with students and parents in regards to instruction, questions, concerns, and student participation in learning opportunities.
 - HS teachers will document this communication as well.





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- **ZOOM...**
 - HS teachers may begin inviting HS students to Zoom meetings, Instructional communication, etc...
- **Has the school district contacted the teachers about changes in grading?**
 - Yes, that has been communicated...HS teacher communication occurred on Thursday, April 16th and again on Monday, April 20th.
- **How long do students have to complete assignments?**
 - Same routine as previous weeks...one week.
- **3rd Marking Period Classes...**
 - I recently communicated to the HS teachers that I will keep the 3rd Marking Period grading open through **Thursday, April 30th** to permit a sufficient amount of time for students to submit work and teachers to enter grades into the MMS grading system.
 - Teachers may require that work is submitted before April 30th to allow time for them to grade and post the grades in the grading system.
 - Missing work can still be collected to positively impact grades. Teachers may still reach out to students or vice versa to create a plan for that individual student to positively impact their grade.
 - The only grades, from the 4th Marking Period (over the last 3 weeks) that are posted in the 3rd Marking Period, are grades that will have a positive impact on the student's grade.
- **Grading Information...**
 - There are two current exceptions to the change in grading online assignment...EMT Certification Class and Chemistry II (a College in the HS class) both are directly connected to HACC.
 - Year-long classes grade calculation: Quarter 1, Quarter 2, Quarter 3 are averaged together...equals the final grade. No Quarter 4 grades. No Final.
 - Semester 1 classes: Final grade calculation completed as normal.
 - Semester 1/Quarter 1 classes: Final grade calculation completed as normal.
 - Semester 1/Quarter 2 classes: Final grade calculation completed as normal.
 - Semester 2 classes: Quarter 3 grades also equals the final grade. No Quarter 4 grades. No Final.
 - Semester 2/Quarter 3 classes: Final grade calculation completed as normal.
 - Semester 2/Quarter 4 classes: HS Students will receive a "P".
 - It is understood that students were in the class for 3 weeks.
 - A .5 credit will be awarded to any student you receives a "P" for a Quarter 4 class.
 - A "P" is not calculated in a student's GPA.
 - Any non-senior that wishes to retake a 2019-2020 Quarter 4 class for a grade in the future will be permitted. It will not be required.
 - Students are expected to continue completing learning opportunities in Quarter 4 classes.
 - Transcripts...students will receive a notation on their transcript to the fact that "Quarter 3 and 4 grades were combined and not averaged."
 - The HS will work to secure appropriate wording...there is no desire to be punitive in nature, but the HS needs to communicate the facts of what occurred that is different than normal operating





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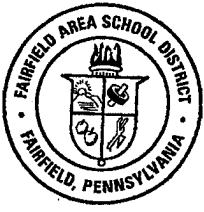
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- procedures.
 - Most of the High Schools across the county and IU are operating under the same or similar guidelines
- High School GPA...stops with Quarter 3 for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Just to reiterate...Class Rank, GPA, etc. in the High School will be calculated on 3 quarters for the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Students enrolled in Cyber School course (Plato Online Learning)...**
 - Tutors/Cyber Instructors will remind students to continue in the Plato Online Learning.
 - Tutors/Cyber Instructors will continue to monitor the students in the enrolled Plato online courses.
 - End dates...same as communicated for Online Learning in the Fairfield Area High School Student Expectations section.
 - Skills courses...Students should continue progressing in the course work.
 - **Plato courses**...no grades going forward, but **students need to complete the course for credit**. That could be Physics, Accounting, Personal Finance, etc...The course needs to be fully completed successfully for credit.
 - Non-senior students will be permitted carry over a Plato course to the 2020-2021 school year if needed with no penalty. With the understanding, that class(es) will be assigned in addition to other classes that are required...which is usually 4 credits a semester.
- **Penalties for not completing learning opportunities...**
 - What is your definition?
 - If your definition is grades then there will not be a penalty for not completing the assigned learning opportunities.
 - If your definition is a bit broader than just grades then the penalties could be impactful in numerous ways.
 - It could impact your ability to be successful in the next class in the course sequence.
 - Examples: Ag Science I to Ag Science II, Algebra II to Pre-Calculus, English 9 to English 10, Business Math to Accounting, Spanish/German I to Spanish/German II, Intro to Art to Art in 2D/3D or Photography, etc....
 - It could impact your ability to be successful at the next grade level.
 - It could impact your ability to be successful applying to Adams County Tech Prep or the EMT certification course.
 - It could impact the perception that others have of your work ethic...which is often communicated in a student recommendation letter for scholarships, awards, recognition, and/or a job.
- **Graduation**
 - Graduation date: June 4th is the goal to participate in a graduation ceremony together...just as in the past.
 - Will that be possible?...that is yet to be determined.
 - Waiting on further communication from the PA Governor and PDE so we are in a holding pattern.
 - Work continues on alternative plans and ideas.





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- I have met with the Adams County Principals on this topic numerous times and those conversations and planning will continue.
 - I have met with the Senior Class Advisors and the Senior Class Officers...we discussed graduation, and they provided input.
 - Tassels, recognition sashes, etc...These will still be ordered, organized, and distributed at a later date yet to be determined. This information will be communicated in the future.
 - Graduation plans will be communicated in a timely fashion to all seniors and parent/guardians in the future.
- **AP Classes**
 - Instruction will be geared toward the AP Exam.
 - College Board is communicating with your son/daughter about the AP Exam(s).
 - AP teachers are communicating with your son/daughter about the AP Exam(s)
 - AP teachers will continue to communicate to students about AP Classes.
 - I would encourage your son/daughter to access their College Board account for up-to-date information from the College Board.

Hopefully this communication has worked to clarify some questions and provide some insight into a plethora of topics.

In signing off...I think about the mantra that I always spout off..."Keep Moving Forward." It is not my original phrase...just check out Walt Disney. Check out **Meet the Robinsons**. This certainly appears to be an opportune time for us as a "Fairfield Family" to Keep Moving Forward...

Be Safe, Be Healthy, and Be Positive.

Keep Moving Forward,

Brian W. McDowell
FASD HS Principal

